

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 458

By Floyd

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Samuel Newton Swope of Red Bank.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Samuel Newton Swope; and

WHEREAS, Samuel N. Swope was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a highly successful entrepreneur, Samuel Swope was the founder and owner of Swope Rental Company, in which position he earned the respect of his employees and customers alike for the exemplary quality of his work and the commitment to excellence exhibited by himself and his family who continue to operate the business; and

WHEREAS, since the founding of his company in 1961, Mr. Swope had employed over 100 area youth in summer and part time jobs over the years, sharing with them his strong belief in higher education while giving them an opportunity for employment and advancement. Today these former employees have gone on to become highly successful individuals in numerous fields; and

WHEREAS, assisting several fellow businessmen to start their own firms in other cities across Tennessee and the South, Mr. Swope was named Small Businessman of the Year by the Red Bank Area Council of the Chamber of Commerce in 1984; and

WHEREAS, a leader in the Red Bank community for many years, Mr. Swope was honored by the community when Morrison Springs Road was renamed the Sam Swope Parkway, a fitting tribute since he had played a pivotal role in its widening and reconstruction; and

WHEREAS, Samuel Swope was a board member of the Hamilton County Schools Fund for Excellence, a lifetime member of the Parent Teachers Organization, and played a key role in

the building of the Red Bank High School football stadium along with being an avid fan of the Red Bank Lions; and

WHEREAS, at the time of his death Mr. Swope was serving in the long-held position of Treasurer of the Forgotten Child Fund, riding every year in its annual Christmas Eve “Santa Train”; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Swope was a member of the Red Bank-Soddy Daisy Foundation, Red Bank Masonic Lodge 717, the Alhambra Shrine, the Royal Order of Jesters, and the Red Bank Lions Club, in addition to having served as an officer on the board of Red Bank Community Hospital, now Erlanger North, for seventeen years; and

WHEREAS, proud to serve his country, Samuel Newton Swope was a 42-year veteran of the United States Navy, retiring in 1984 as Master Chief of the command of the U.S. Naval Reserve Center in Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, during his Naval career, Master Chief Swope served in World War II in the Pacific and in Europe and saw action in the Korean War; he also served in Washington, D.C. on the Naval Policy Board for many years and attended yearly reunions of the men who served on LST 485; and

WHEREAS, recognized for his outstanding service to his country, Master Chief Swope was Grand Marshal of the Armed Forces Day Parade in downtown Chattanooga in 2005; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Swope was an active and devout member of Red Bank Baptist Church, which he served faithfully for 58 years in numerous capacities, holding multiple and various leadership positions, and was the current chair of the Personnel Committee and a former member of the Property Development Committee; and

WHEREAS, he was instrumental in the relocation of the Red Bank Bi-Lo, which facilitated the construction of the Family Life Center for the church on that site; and

WHEREAS, Samuel Newton Swope was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Samuel Swope was preceded in death by his father, Clyde Winfield Swope, his mother, Laura Gladys Smith Swope, his brothers Clyde W. and James Leo Swope, and his uncle and aunt, Joe and Gertrude Swope; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Swope enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of 58 years, Margaret Brady Swope, and was the proud father of Gloria and husband Richard Strout, Patricia and husband David Baker, and Terry and wife Betsy Swope, and the loving grandfather of Bonnie and husband Robert Bezkor, Bethany Morris, Cam Swope, and Hal Swope; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Swope is also survived by many nieces and nephews and a host of extended family members and dear friends; and

WHEREAS, Samuel Swope leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Samuel Newton Swope, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Samuel Newton Swope.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.